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THE

CORRESPONDENCE

OF THE

SUN, HEAT, AND LIGHT.

BY

SAMPSON REED.

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THE following pages were first read to the New Church Sabbath School in Boston, and are published in the hope that they may be generally useful.

S. R.

THE SUN.

THE SUN CORRESPONDS TO THE LORD.

WHAT a glorious object is the Sun! How brightly and how warmly it shines! How it seems to cause everything to rejoice by its influence! When it withdraws its shining it is night, and if we did not know that it would rise again, how sad we should be! And then, too, when its heat is lessened, as in winter, how cold and dreary everything

To what does the sun correspond?
How does the sun shine, and what is said of its influence?
What causes the night?
What is the consequence when the sun's heat is lessened?

becomes! And this, when only a part of the heat of the sun is taken away from us. Should we be deprived of all of it, we could not live an instant.

We have perhaps some of us seen men or children who are blind. It is a sad thing to be deprived of the light, or of the power of seeing; and it would be still more dreadful to be deprived of the heat of the sun.

Although the sun is so necessary to our life and comfort, there are many men and children so thoughtless, that they pass their lives in the world without thinking about its use to them. Because it shines every day, they think nothing about it. Should it not

What would be the effect if the sun gave us no heat?

What is said of blind persons?

Which is the most important, heat or light?

What is said of the thoughtlessness of some persons respecting the sun?

Why do they not think about the sun's use to them?

rise in the morning, they would begin to feel the loss of it. But the common gifts of Providence are not regarded by them.

Now there is a sun in the spiritual world, which warms and enlightens our spirits, just as the sun of the natural world does our bodies. This is the sun which the angels see. Without its rays, we could not love our parents nor each other; neither could we see nor understand what our instructors teach us if it did not shine into our minds. It has always shone upon us, ever since we were born. But we are very apt to be unmindful of its influence, just as thoughtless persons are of that of the sun of this world.

Is there a sun in the spiritual world?
How does this spiritual sun affect our spirits?
By whom is this spiritual sun seen?
What causes you to love your parents and each other?
What causes you to understand what you are taught?
How long has this spiritual sun shone upon us?

In the spring, when the sun begins to warm the animals and the earth, what a wonderful change takes place! The little birds, which had been out of sight, suddenly make their appearance. We hardly know where they come from. And when they appear, how sweetly they sing, and how happy they are! And this, because the sun is beginning to warm them. Just so, it is because the Sun of the spiritual world shines upon us, that we love each other, and are happy, and wish to sing and dance. This Sun warms our hearts, and makes us glad and then we sing.

There are birds also in heaven, and when

What change is spoken of in the spring?

What seems to cause this change, and to make the birds so happy?

What corresponding effect does the spiritual sun produce on us?

We have spoken of the birds in this world — where are *there birds besides* these?

the angels love each other, and are talking wisely, they fly about among the branches of the trees, and sing most sweetly. But if it was possible for the angels to grow cold and selfish, these birds would all disappear, as our birds do in the winter.

So too in the spring, the birds, when the sun begins to warm them, choose their mates. And then the married pair love each other tenderly, and select some suitable, secure place, and build a nest. The female then lays her eggs, and sits upon them, while her mate watches near, or goes in search of food for her. And when the young are hatched, their father and mother love them tenderly, even more than their own lives.

When do the birds in heaven fly about and sing?

What would become of these birds if the angels should grow cold and selfish?

When do the birds choose their mates?

What is said of the married pair afterwards?

No danger will drive them away. But every day they go in search of food for their little ones, and when they have found it, they bring it to their nest, and put it into the mouths of their offspring, as they open them wide to receive it. And when their young are old enough, they sometimes push them from their nest, that they may teach them to use their own wings, and to take care of themselves, — and this they do with a violence so gentle, that we cannot help feeling that it is full of tenderness and love.

All these things happen to the birds when the sun warms them in the spring. It seems as if the sun produced such wonderful effects; but it is the Lord who is the cause of them. The sun is only the instrument by which he works.

The sun of this world seems to cause the birds to love each other and their offspring so tenderly,—who is really the cause

What is the sun in relation to the Lord?

Just so, it is because the sun of the spiritual world shines into the hearts of your parents, that *they* love each other tenderly, that your father provides a house in which they live together, and that he labors through the day, that he may obtain what is necessary for your mother's comfort and happiness, and for your own. It was from the influence of the sun of the spiritual world that your mother was led to watch over you in your cradles, that she noticed your slightest wants and supplied them when you were helpless and ignorant, that she washed and clothed, and fed you with unceasing care. And when you grow larger, and by degrees learn a little how to provide

What causes your parents to love each other?

What does the influence of the spiritual sun cause your father to do for your mother and yourselves?

What has the influence of this sun caused your mother to do for you?

for yourselves, it is from the influence of this sun that your parents are led, by little and little, to lessen their care over you. As you grow up to be men and women, the Lord leads your parents to teach you to provide for yourselves; just as the birds teach their young ones how to use their own wings.

But there is this difference between you and the birds. As the birds forget their natural parents, they have no knowledge of any other. But *you* have a Father in heaven, whose care over you will never cease nor be diminished. It is true that He also provides for the birds, while they are ignorant of it. But *you* can learn to see and understand His providence, and should love Him even more than you have ever loved your father or mother.

How will the influence of this sun cause your parents to treat *you as you grow* up to be men and women?

How do you differ from the birds?

There are many animals, especially among those little ones called insects, which in the winter grow torpid and seem to be dead. As the cold weather comes on, they are led by Him, without whose care even a sparrow cannot fall to the ground, to seek out some safe retreat, where they may be protected from danger, and, in some measure, from the cold, and prepare themselves to die for a season. Some penetrate into the earth, others creep under a large stone, or a heap of dead leaves, or the moss on the sheltered side of an old wall, or bank. Others retreat under the bark of old trees, or into the trunk itself; and some make for themselves little houses, called cocoons; these they spin, as the spider does his web, out of their own bodies, and by these they are protected.

What is said of some animals in the winter?
What do these animals do when the cold weather comes on?

Your parents will some time show you o
of these cocoons, that you may know wh
they are.

As the winter comes on, and the cold
creases, the life of these little creatures d
appears. They lie for months without e
ing anything, or even breathing or movi
Should you examine them ever so close
you could find no signs of life. Some a
frozen stiff and solid like pieces of ice. F
when the spring comes, and the sun beg
to warm them, their life returns ag
They begin to breathe and move, and c
out of their hiding-places, and seek and
their food, and are active and happy.
sometimes have warm and sunny days i
middle of the winter. But the Lord te

What is their state?

How do they seem when examined?

What change takes place when the sun warms th
spring?

these insects better than to trust to these days and venture out; for they would then find no suitable food, and the winter would again overtake them. But when they are warmed in the spring, then they come out.

What a miracle does the sun seem to work on these little creatures! It is even so with us. If the sun of the spiritual world should cease to warm us, we too should die. There are seasons when we turn away from this sun, and are partially deprived of its influence; and we become cold and selfish, and torpid and listless. But when we suffer it to shine upon us again, and our hearts are warmed, we are awakened into new life and are happy.

Why do they not venture out in warm days in the winter?

What would become of *us* if the sun of the spiritual world should cease to warm us?

What is our state when we turn away from this sun?

What is our state when we suffer it to shine on us again?

It is true that we cannot see, with the eyes of our material bodies, the sun of the spiritual world, but if we love its influence, we may learn much about it before we die; and after death, if we have been good, we shall see it. The angels see it continually. They cannot turn their faces from it. Look where they will, it is always before them. If it should disappear from them an instant, they would be sad and sorrowful, and their sky would be darkened with clouds.

In the spring, when the sun is warm, the trees put forth their leaves and blossoms;

What is necessary for us to do that we may learn about the spiritual sun?

What is necessary that we may see it?

When shall we see it if we are good?

What is always before the faces of the angels?

What would be their state if this sun should disappear fr them?

What change takes place in the trees in the spring?

and as the heat of the sun continues and increases, they at length become laden with fruit. In the spring, too, the husbandman prepares his ground and sows his seed; and as the sun warms it it springs up, grows, and is fruitful.

The truths which your parents and instructors teach you are to your minds what the seeds of the husbandman are to the earth. But these truths would never do you any good if the sun of the spiritual world did not shine, and cause you to love and cherish them. It is because this sun warms them, that they spring up and bear good

When do they bear fruit?

When does the husbandman sow his seed?

What causes it to spring up and grow?

To what, in your minds, do the seeds of the husbandman correspond?

What is necessary that these truths may be useful to you?

What causes these truths to bear good fruit?

fruit. Your kind and gentle treatment of those whom you meet, and of one another, and your faithful and cheerful doing of what you are taught by your parents and instructors, are the good fruits which are ripened by the spiritual sun. And they are far better and more beautiful than grapes or oranges.

In the spring, when the sun warms the ground, what a multitude of beautiful flowers appear! The earth is dressed like a bride adorned for her husband the sun, who has come forth to meet her. All these flowers seem to be trying to come into the sun's presence. Many of them will close up when the sun sets at night, as if anxious to keep their beauty and their fragrance for him

In what does this fruit consist?
When do the flowers appear?
What is said of them in relation to the sun?

only. In the morning they open again, rejoicing in the sun's influence.

So too with us. All that is really good or beautiful in our minds or persons, is from the sun of the spiritual world, and can live only in the presence of that sun. If we begin to be proud of these beautiful things, and to call them our own, they will vanish as the flowers close up at night. But if we suffer the spiritual sun to shine upon them, and see that it is this influence which causes them to live and grow, they will never cease to become more beautiful.

There are many more wonderful things which we might learn about the suns of the

There are beautiful things in our minds to which the flowers correspond, — what causes these things to exist and to be beautiful?

What would become of these beautiful things if we should be proud of them?

When will they grow and become more beautiful?

two worlds, so many that we have hardly begun to learn them. We should never forget that though the sun of this world seems to produce such great changes on animals and vegetables, it could do nothing at all, without the influence of the Lord, through the spiritual sun.

We find in the Word, that when the Lord was transfigured before Peter, James, and John, "His face shone as the sun." It was the sun of the spiritual world which they then saw. The Lord is in the midst of that sun, and it is from Him that it derives all its heat, and light, and splendor.

There are many passages in the Word

When we see the effects which seem to be produced by the natural sun, what should we be careful to remember?

What is said of the Lord when He was transfigured?

What sun was then seen by Peter, James, and John?

Where is the Lord in respect to the spiritual sun?

Whence does it derive its heat and light?

which will help us to understand this subject. Some are added, and your parents will help you to find more. "The Lord God is a sun and a shield; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good will He withhold from them that walk uprightly." "The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee; but the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory. Thy sun shall no more go down, neither shall thy moon withdraw itself; for the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended." "And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof." "In Him was life, and the life was the light

Can you name any passage from the Sacred Scriptures which will help you to understand this subject?

of men." "And His countenance was a the sun shineth in his strength." "And I saw another mighty Angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud; and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire." By this mighty Angel was signified the Lord.

You may some of you, perhaps, have seen pictures of the Lord; and if you have, you have noticed an appearance of light proceeding from His countenance. It is because H is indeed the fountain of spiritual heat an light, in which are love and wisdom, th those who made these pictures were led paint them in this way.

How is the Lord represented in pictures?
Why are men led to make such pictures?

HEAT.

HEAT AND FIRE CORRESPOND TO LOVE.

I HAVE told you some of the many things which are to be learned about the suns of the two worlds, — the world we live in now, and the world we shall live in after we die, where the angels live. The sun of this world shines upon our bodies, and gives us heat and light; but the sun of the spiritual world shines upon the angels, and gives *them*

To what does heat correspond?
What two suns have been spoken of?
What sun shines on our bodies?
From what do the angels receive their heat and light?

heat and light. The sun of the spiritu world also shines upon our spirits, a warms and enlightens them, as the sun this world does our bodies; and we may lea much about this spiritual sun, and feel i influence before we are permitted to see it.

There are many men and women who not know that there is a spiritual sun; an when they are told of it, they believe not ing about it. And there are many wicked that they do not love the influen of this spiritual sun, because they do n love the Lord nor one another. But *y* should seek to be warmed by it, and pray the Lord that He will cause His face

What sun shines on our spirits?

What may we do in regard to the spiritual sun before see it?

Do all men know that there is a spiritual sun?

Why do not some persons love the influence of this sun?

What ought you to seek in regard to it?

shine upon you and warm you more and more. And if you are good children, and keep the commandments of the Lord, and do as your parents and instructors teach you, the spiritual sun will warm you more and more.

You read in the Sacred Scripture, that when the Lord was on the earth, He took little children in His arms and blessed them. He blessed them with His lips, and He also blessed them by giving them good and warm affections. You cannot now see Him as those little children did, but He is still very near you. You can see one another; but the Lord, whom you cannot see, is much

What is necessary on your part that you may be warmed by this sun?

How did the Lord treat little children when He was on the earth?

How did He bless them?

What is said of His nearness to you?

nearer to you than you are to one another. He watches over you every instant. If you love one another, it is because He causes His face to shine upon you, and gives you good affections. If you feel bright and happy, and understand what you are taught, it is because His spiritual sun is shining upon you and giving you light.

I will now tell you something which is very wonderful, and which may make you feel that the Lord is always very near to you. You know that your bodies are always warm. If you take each other by the hand, you will find each other's hands warm. If you kiss one another's cheeks, you will find each other's cheeks warm. Now it is not the sun of this world which

What is He now doing for you?
What is said of the warmth of your bodies?
By whom and by what means are you kept warm?

keeps you warm, but the Lord by means of His spiritual sun.

There are some things about you which seem to be warmed only by the sun of this world; but your bodies are much warmer than these. When you die and go away into the spiritual world, your bodies, as soon as you have left them, will grow cold and stiff. It is your spirit which keeps your body warm, and it is the Lord who keeps your spirit warm. He gives you love, and good and warm affections, and these warm both the spirit and the body; but they warm the spirit first. Must not the Lord be very near to you, who causes His spiritual sun to shine upon you, and keeps you warm every

How may you know that it is not the sun of this world which keeps you warm?

Who keeps your bodies warm?

Who keeps your spirit warm?

How does the Lord do this?

instant, day and night, both when you are awake and when you are asleep?

Some of you may have thought that you are kept warm by your clothes. But it is not so. The clothes do not give you any new heat, but only keep the warmth which the Lord gives you from passing away too quickly.

When there is a fire in a good tight room, it is much hotter and will keep warm much longer than it would if all the doors and windows were opened. This is because the doors and windows, when they are shut, keep the heat from passing away out of the room. Just so your clothes keep the heat fron passing away from your bodies: but it is the Lord who gives you this warmth, and that continually. It is also the Lord who warms

What does He do for you every instant?
Have you ever thought that your clothes kept you warm?
In what way do your clothes keep you from being cold?
To what are your clothes compared in this respect?

the hearts of your parents, and causes them to love you and provide these good clothes, without which you could not be kept warm and comfortable.

Sometimes, when you are good and obedient, you have warmer and better affections, and feel brighter and happier than at others. When you read the Sacred Scripture, the Lord is very near to you, causing His face to shine upon you; and that is what makes you feel kind and gentle and happy. The angels too are with you, watching over you, and they love you better and feel nearer to you when you read the Sacred Scripture,

Who leads your parents to provide you with clothes?

What is said of your affections and thoughts when you are good and obedient?

When is the Lord very near to you?

How does His presence cause you to feel?

Who are guarding and watching over you?

What is said of the angels when you read the Sacred Scripture?

than they do at other times. They are much affected when little children read the Word, and they understand what you are reading about, much better than you do yourselves.

The angels always look on the face of the Lord and see His spiritual sun. They are warmed themselves, and love each other and little children, and when they are very near you, as they are when you love to read the Word, you feel their influence making you kind and affectionate to each other.

There are many things which you might learn about heat which would help to show you how it corresponds to love. Only think how the heat seems to cause every thing to live and grow. In the spring, when the trees are warmed, the sap begins to ascend.

On what do the angels always look?
How does their influence affect you?
What seems to cause every thing to live and grow?
What is said of the trees when they are warmed in the spring?

They put forth leaves and blossoms, and begin to grow, and continue growing till autumn. Then the frost comes and their leaves fall, and they seem to die till the warm weather returns again.

If you should look at the trunk of a tree after it is cut down, you would find circles in the wood, which would show you how much the tree grew in the season from spring to fall, when it was warmed by the heat of the sun. If you should examine it very closely, you might perhaps count these circles, and be able to tell how many years old the tree was. Now the reason that heat causes the trees and the grass to grow, is that it corresponds to love, and is the instrument by which love works.

What is the effect of the frost on them?

How may you tell how much a tree grew in the warm part of a year, from spring to fall?

Why does heat cause the trees and grass to grow?

It is the Lord's love which causes *you* to grow. This love causes your spirits to grow and your bodies to grow. The Lord causes His face to shine upon you, and this enables you to love Him, and your parents, and one another, and to love to learn what you are taught, and to live according to what you learn to be right. And then your spirits grow. They grow better and wiser. You learn something new every day; and you will love to learn, and will learn very easily, if you love the Lord and one another. And if you are good, and cheerful, and happy children, and shun every thing that is evil,

What causes *you* to grow?

What does the Lord's love enable you to do?

If you do these things what is the consequence on your spirits?

How do your spirits grow?

What will enable you to learn easily?

If you are good, how will your faces and bodies appear after *you die?*

as sin, and do what you are taught, and always try to be useful and make others happy; when you die and go away into the spiritual world, you will have bright and beautiful faces, and clean and healthy bodies, which the Lord had been causing to grow while you lived in this world, and thought nothing about it.

You have heard that when the birds have built their nests and laid their eggs, the female sits upon them. She sits upon them for days—perhaps weeks. She never leaves them, except to obtain food, and is always careful to return before they are cold. For she keeps them warm with the heat of her body; and it is this heat which causes the young to live and grow till, at last, they burst the shells of the eggs, and come out

When does the Lord provide these spiritual bodies for you?

After the birds have built their nests and laid their eggs, what is done by the female?

What effect does the heat of her body produce on the eggs?

beautiful little birds. It is because heat corresponds to love, that it produces such wonderful effects. And when the little ones have been hatched, their mother covers them with her wings and feathers, and preserves their life by keeping them warm.

Just so, it is the Lord's love which has created you, and kept you alive from your birth, and has raised you up from the helplessness of infancy. Thus it is written of the Lord, "He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust." And the Lord Himself says of Jerusalem, "How often would I have gathered thy children together even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not."

By Jerusalem is signified the church. In

Why does heat produce this effect?
How are the little ones protected afterwards?
What has the Lord's love done for you?
What did the Lord say of Jerusalem?
What in this passage is signified by Jerusalem?

this case it signifies that church, or representative of a church, which had existed with the Jews. The Lord desired to gather her children together, but He was rejected and crucified. But there is now a New Jerusalem or new church, and the Lord is gathering her children together; and her children should love nothing so much as to be gathered together by Him.

It is the Lord's love which gathers *you* together. He gathers you together by causing you to love one another, and you are gathered together under His wings, when you are sensible that it is His love which warms and supports and protects you, and which gives you the love which you feel for each other.

There are many passages in the Word

How was the Lord treated by the Jews?
What is meant by the New Jerusalem?
What is the Lord doing for her?
What gathers *you* together?
How does the Lord gather you together?
When are you gathered together under His wings?

which may help you to understand how heat and fire correspond to love. You know that the Ten Commandments were given to Moses in Mount Sinai, and when these Commandments were about to be revealed, it is written: "And Mount Sinai was altogether in a smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire; and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly." And in another place it is written: "The Lord talked with you face to face out of the midst of the fire." "These words the Lord spake unto all your assembly in the mount, out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with a great voice; and he added no more; and he wrote them on two tables of stone and delivered them unto me. And it came to pass that when ye heard the voice out of the

Can you name any passages in the Sacred Scripture in which *fire corresponds* to love?

midst of the darkness (for the mountain did burn with fire), that ye came near unto me, even all the heads of your tribes, and your elders; and ye said, Behold, the Lord our God hath shewed us his glory and his greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire: we have seen this day that God doth talk with man and He liveth. Now, therefore, why should we die? for this great fire will consume us; if we hear the voice of the Lord our God any more, then we shall die. For who is there of all flesh that hath heard the voice of the living God, speaking out of the midst of the fire as we have, and live?"

These things took place on Mount Sinai because fire corresponds to love; and the Commandments being given out of the midst of the fire, shows us that these Command-

Why did the things which are described take place on *Mount Sinai?*

ments proceed from the Lord's love. These Commandments you have learned. You should always remember that they are full of love, and that the more you love and keep them, the more the Lord will cause His face to shine upon you. The voice of the living God will speak to you out of the midst of the fire, and cause you to live. The fire from which the Commandments proceeded, was said to burn even to the heart of heaven, because the love of the Lord, with which the Commandments are filled, gives life to all the angels of the heavens.

Speaking of Jerusalem, it is written: "For I, saith the Lord, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her." By Jerusalem is signified

What are we taught by the Commandments being given out of the midst of the fire?

What will the Lord do if you love and keep the Commandments?

Why was the fire on Mount Sinai said to burn even to the *heart of heaven?*

the church; and by the wall of fire, the Lord's love which protects and supports it.

In the eighteenth chapter of the First Book of Kings, it is written: "Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves and cut it in pieces and lay it on wood, and put no fire under; and I will dress the other bullock and lay it on wood, and put no fire under; and call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord; and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered, and said, It is well spoken."

I wish you to read the 18th chapter of the First Book of Kings. The things here

What is signified by Jerusalem?
What by the wall of fire?

described took place because fire corresponds to love. The God that answers by fire is the Lord Jesus Christ. He loves us, and gives us power to love Him and our neighbors; and if we look to Him and keep His Commandments, He will fill our hearts with His love. It is for this reason that He is said to baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

It is written in the sixth chapter of Leviticus, "And the fire upon the altar shall be burning in it; it shall not be put out." And also, "The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar; it shall never go out." This was commanded the Israelites on account of the correspondence of fire. By the altar is

Why did those things take place which are described in the 18th chapter of the First Book of Kings?

Who is the God that answers by fire?

What is meant by His answering by fire?

Why is the Lord said to baptize with fire?

Why was the command to the Israelites that the fire should *never go out* on the altar?

signified the Lord, and by the fire on the altar, the Lord's love. This fire was never permitted to go out, because the Lord's love never ceases. Some heathen nations also kept a perpetual fire in their temples; and they were led to do this from the correspondence of fire.

The Lord did not suffer the priests to take fire from any other place except the altar, when they offered incense. It is written in the tenth chapter of Leviticus: "And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the Lord, which he commanded them

What is signified by the altar?

What by the fire on the altar?

What by the fire never being suffered to go out?

Why have some heathen nations been led to keep a perpetual fire in their temples?

From what were the priests required to take the fire when they offered incense?

not. And there went out fire from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord."

This strange fire was fire which was not taken from the altar; by which is signified love which does not proceed from the Lord, which is self-love. I have not told you of this strange fire before, and I do not wish to say much about it. Whenever you pray to the Lord, you should always wish to be warmed by His love. When you are led to be kind and to do good to one another, you should always remember that it is the Lord who is giving you kind feelings and good affections. The fire will then be taken from the altar.

What was the strange fire taken by the sons of Aaron?

What is signified by this strange fire?

When the fire is taken from the altar, what will you wish when you pray?

What will you acknowledge respecting the affection you feel *for each other?*

But if you feel angry with other children, or despise them, or wish to make them serve you, instead of wishing to be useful to them, you may know that this strange fire is creeping into your spirits. You should then pray to the Lord to put this fire away from you, and endeavor to shun it as sinful. For if you indulge in angry passions and wicked feelings and thoughts, they will destroy what is good and lovely in your minds, as the fire consumed the sons of Aaron. Wicked men and spirits love themselves and hate and despise others; and this self-love is the "fire which is said to be prepared for the devil and his angels."

When may you know that this strange fire is in your spirits?

What should you then do?

What will be the effect of indulging evil passions?

What is meant by the fire "prepared for the devil and his angels"?

LIGHT.

LIGHT CORRESPONDS TO TRUTH.

You know, children, that heat and light are usually found together. When a fire is made of wood or coal, it warms us, and it also sends forth light. The sun of this world is pure fire. It is full of heat and light, and it is constantly sending them forth to cause everything to live, and grow, and be beautiful.

The sun, you remember, corresponds to the Lord, and its heat to His love. The light corresponds to His truth or wisdom;

To what does light correspond?
What is usually found with heat?
What is the sun of this world?
What is the sun always sending forth?
To what does the sun correspond?
To what does heat correspond?

and the Lord is always imparting His love and wisdom to the angels, and to good men and children in this world, as the sun is always sending forth its rays of heat and light. He also wishes to impart them to evil spirits and wicked men, but they are unwilling to receive them.

As the heat and light go forth together from the sun of this world, so does the Lord impart both spiritual heat and light to the angels and to our spirits. He always seeks to cause us to love Himself and one another, and also to make us wise and intelligent. But we are not always willing to be warmed and led by Him.

The angels suffer the Lord to give them, at the same time, both good and warm affections and true and bright thoughts. And if we

What is the Lord always imparting?
To whom does He impart them?
How does He impart them?
What is the Lord always endeavoring to cause us to do?
What do the angels suffer the Lord to give them?

are good and obedient to the Commandments of the Lord, we shall always be drawing near the state of these happy angels. Perhaps we shall sometimes feel humble, and kind and gentle, and desirous of doing good, and not know how to act; and then we must look to the Lord, and He will teach us what we ought to do. Perhaps at other times we shall see clearly what we ought to do, and yet be unwilling to do it, but have bad and wicked feelings, which are opposed to our duties, and then we must go straight forward and do what we ought, because we know that it is the Lord's will; and He will

What is necessary for us that we may be drawing near the state of the angels?

What must we do when we feel kind and humble, but do not know how we ought to act?

What must we do when we see our duty but feel unwilling to do it?

For what reason should we do our duty?

afterwards give us better feelings, so that we shall take pleasure in doing good.

If we look to the Lord for light when we feel kind and humble, but do not know what we ought to do; and if at other times we do what we know to be right, because it is the Lord's will, even though our own wills are opposed to it; we shall be every day drawing nearer the state of those happy angels, who love nothing so well as to do good to others, and who see nothing so clearly as the way to do it. And then we shall receive both the heat and light of the spiritual sun together, as the Lord loves to have us.

We have seen how heat causes all the

What will the Lord give us after we have done it?

What two things then are necessary for us that we may draw near the angels?

What do the angels love most?

What do they see most clearly?

How does the Lord love to have us receive the heat and light of the spiritual sun?

trees and vegetables to grow, and flourish, and be fruitful; but I have not told you before that these also need the light. If they are deprived of the light, even if they are kept ever so warm, they grow pale and sickly, and bear no beautiful flowers, nor good and wholesome fruit. It is so with our spirits. If we loved each other ever so much, we should still be miserable if we had not truth to teach us how we ought to treat one another, and in what way and by what actions we might make each other better and happier. We should then be like these pale, sickly, plants, which only need the light

What causes the trees and vegetables to grow?
What do they need besides heat?
What is the consequence if they are deprived of the light?
Love causes our spirits to grow—what else is necessary?
What would be our state without truth?
What does truth teach us?
What should we resemble without truth?
What causes the plants to be fair and beautiful?

to make them strong and beautiful. We should have good and kind feelings, but should be useless and unhappy, because we should not know what to do.

But trees and plants, when they are deprived of the light, are not only pale and sickly, but grow in ugly and mis-shapen forms, losing all their fair proportions and beauty. So also with our spirits. It is the truth which gives to them their true form, and which makes our minds fair, and lovely, and strong, and healthy.

In heaven the angels are very beautiful. They are very much more beautiful than any men or women in this world. The expression of their faces is most sweet, and their forms and motions most graceful and pleasing. And the angels are so beautiful

What effect does the truth have on our spirits?
What is said of the beauty of the angels?
What of the expression of their faces?

because they love the truth; for it is the truth which gives them their beauty and gracefulness. But evil spirits have ugly and hideous faces, and monstrous and mis-shapen bodies. And this is because they hate the truth, and will not follow it. They love darkness rather than light, and thus become like those deformed plants, on which the light does not shine.

As heat alone without light is not sufficient to make the trees and plants grow and flourish, so neither is light sufficient without heat. There seems to be as much light in the winter as there is in the summer; but, as we have seen already, it is not till the sun warms the earth in the spring, that everything begins to grow and be fruitful.

Why are the angels so beautiful?
What is the appearance of evil spirits?
Why are they so monstrous?
What are they like?
What is necessary besides light to cause the plants to grow?

So also with our spirits. We may learn many truths and think ourselves quite wise, but unless we suffer the Lord to warm us also, and give us good affections, and unless we live according to the truths which we have learned, we shall be like trees in the winter, which bear no fruit, nor even leaves. We should therefore always strive to be both warmed and enlightened by the Lord — to suffer Him to give us both good affections and true thoughts. But we should always remember that to be good is better than to be wise or great; and that truth is useful only as it leads us to goodness.

There are times when the Lord gives us more truth or light than at others. When we are good and obedient to His will, He

What is necessary besides truth that our spirits may grow?
What should we always seek from the Lord?
Which is better, to be good or to be wise?
How is truth useful?
What must be our state that the Lord may give us truth?

gives us truth, because then we love it, and are willing to follow it. And He gives it to us when we read the Word. We there find it written: "The entrance of thy words giveth light." The words which we find in the Sacred Scripture are the Lord's words. Some of them are those which He spake when He was on the earth, and others are those which He commanded men to write, that they might be kept always.

These words of the Lord are full of light, and when you hear or see them, if you are good children, they will give you light. And if you love the light which they give you, and do what it teaches you, when you die and go to heaven and live with the

Why does He give us truth when we are good?

What book must we read that we may receive truth?

Whose words do we find in the Sacred Scripture?

If you love the truth and are obedient to it, with whom shall you live after death?

angels, these words of the Lord will still be remembered, and you will love them more and more, and they will shine brighter and brighter.

In heaven the angels have temples in which they worship the Lord. And in the most holy part of their temples is the Sacred Scripture; and it there shines before the eyes of the angels like a great star, and sometimes like the sun; and also from the bright radiance about it there appear, as it were, most beautiful rainbows. When a verse of the Sacred Scripture in heaven is written upon paper and is thrown into the air, the paper itself shines. These things

What shall you then remember?
How will the Sacred Scripture be then regarded by you?
Are there temples in heaven?
In what part of the temple is the Sacred Scripture?
How does the Word appear before the eyes of the angels?
What is the consequence when a verse of the Sacred Scripture is written on paper and thrown into the air?

take place because light corresponds to truth, and the Word is truth. Thus the Lord says: "Sanctify them through thy truth; thy Word is truth."

The light by which the angels see in heaven is much brighter and more beautiful than the light of the sun of this world. The light of this world is as darkness when compared to the light of heaven; and the more the angels grow in goodness, and the more they love the truth, the brighter their light becomes, and the more beautiful everything appears. Nor do they ever have dark nights as we do; but greater degrees of heat and light are followed by less degrees, which make their days and nights.

The very air which the angels breathe,

Why do these things take place?

How is the light of heaven in comparison with the light of this world?

When does the light of the angels become brighter?

What have they in the place of night?

and in which they live, shines and sparkles like little diamonds and precious stones. There is also the appearance in heaven of beautiful rainbows — much more beautiful than any that you have ever seen in this world. The colors there are much more brilliant than any in this world, and there are some colors which we have never seen.

The angels, too, have most beautiful scenery — trees, vines, and flowers of various kinds, the beauty of which we cannot describe, or even think of. All these things are from the light of heaven, which is from the Lord. These beautiful things are given to the angels because they love that light, and the truth with which it is filled. They

What is the appearance of the air in heaven?

Are there rainbows in heaven?

How are the colors in heaven compared to those in this world?

What kind of scenery have the angels?

Why do these beautiful things appear in heaven?

are therefore called angels of light. But wicked spirits, who do not love the truth, nor do what the truth teaches, do not see any such beautiful things, but live in thick darkness. They are therefore called angels of darkness.

Only think how little we should be able to do without light. The city is full of streets and the country of roads, but if we had not light we should wander about and not know where we were, and not be able to see to work or read, nor even to play, and perhaps we should stumble and fall. So it is with our spirits. It is the light of truth which shines on our path and shows us our duty.

What are the angels called?
Why are they so called?
What are wicked spirits called?
Why are they so called?
What enables us to walk without stumbling?
What shows us the path of duty?

There are also ways in the spiritual world, and those men and children who love the Lord, and are obedient to His Commandments, when they die and go into that world, see the ways which lead to heaven, and walk in them. The light of the spiritual sun shines and shows them these ways, as the light of our sun shows us our roads and streets. "All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep His covenant and His testimonies."

But those who have been wicked, and have not loved the Lord nor followed His Commandments, do not see the ways in which the good spirits walk. They do not see these ways because they do not love the light of heaven which shines upon them.

Are there ways in the spiritual world?
Who see the ways which lead to heaven?
By what light do good spirits see these ways?
Who do not see the ways which lead to heaven?
Why do not the wicked see these ways?

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me." It is also written in the Sacred Scripture, that "Every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest that they are wrought in God."

Wicked men, who seek to do evil, even shun the light of the sun of this world. When they wish to do a wicked action, they often choose a dark night, and a dark place to do it in. But good men do their work in the day time; and when the night comes they are ready to rest and sleep.

In the spiritual world, wicked spirits hate

By what passage of Scripture is this illustrated?

How is the light of this world sometimes regarded by the wicked?

How by the good?

the light of the sun of that world, much more than wicked men hate the light in this world. Wicked spirits cannot endure the light of heaven. It torments them very much, and they turn away from it and will not see it.

To the angels, the light of heaven brings joy and gladness. It makes them joyful and active, as the morning light of the sun of this world causes the birds to sing, and fly about, and go forth in search of food for their little ones. In heaven, also, all the innocent animals receive new life from the morning light, and delight the eyes of the angels with their sports. But the evil spirits do not see any of these innocent animals, but, instead of them, beasts of prey and

How do the wicked spirits regard the light of heaven?
How are they affected by it?
How are the angels affected by the light of heaven?
How are innocent animals affected by it in heaven?
What animals do the evil spirits see?

birds of night, which love the darkness like themselves.

There are many passages in the Word in which it is evident that light corresponds to truth. Some of these I will read to you. "Come let us walk in the light of the Lord." "While ye have the light believe in the light." "O send out thy light and thy truth; let them lead me." "Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee." "Let your light so shine before men that they, seeing your good works, may glorify your Father who is in heaven." "The Lord is my light and my salvation." "Then spake Jesus unto them, saying, I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." And in another place the Lord calls Himself the

Will you name any passage in the Sacred Scripture in which *light corresponds to truth?*

truth. "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness." And in another place—"To this end was I born and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice." Of the New Jerusalem it is written—"Her light was like a stone most precious."

It is the Lord Jesus Christ who gives us truth or light, and we must always remember, that it all proceeds from Him. In the Old Testament it is said of the Lord, that He covereth Himself with light as with a garment. And in the New Testament it is written of the Lord, that "His raiment was white as the light." In the Old Testament it is said, "Lift up the light of thy counte-

Who gives us truth or light?

What passages in the Sacred Scripture teach us that the Lord is the source of spiritual light?

nance upon us," and "The Lord cause His face to shine upon thee;" and also, "His brightness was as the light." And in the New Testament it is written of the Lord, that "His countenance was as the sun shineth in His strength;" and also, when He was transfigured, that "His face shone as the sun"—and in the Revelation, "His eyes were as a flame of fire."

Many things which I have told you, I have learned from the books written by Emanuel Swedenborg. The Lord opened the senses of his spirit, and enabled him to see and hear things in the spiritual world, that he might write them for our instruction. He heard the voice of the angels, as you hear each other's voices. He was permitted

Who has been permitted to tell us of the things of the spiritual world?

By what means was he instructed in the things of that world?

to see the sun of the spiritual world, and to perceive its heat and light, as the angels do. He was permitted to enter the houses in which the angels live, and also the temples in which they worship the Lord. He has told us of the uses in which the angels are employed—of the garments with which they appear clothed—of their speech—their wisdom—their happiness; and many other wonderful things.

We learn from Swedenborg, that one of the employments of the angels is to take care of infants and little children. There are many infants and little children who die and go into the spiritual world. The angels receive them with great joy, and love them more tenderly than their parents loved them

What was he permitted to see and hear?
Of what has he told us?
What is spoken of as one employment of the angels?
Where do little children go when they die?
How do the angels receive and regard them?

in this world. These children are led by the angels to love the Lord and one another, and to shun every wicked thought and feeling. And as they are led and instructed, they grow up to be angels.

The angels, too, are watching over and guarding infants and children who live in this world. There are two guardian angels with each one of you. They watch all your feelings and thoughts, and are all the time endeavoring to draw you away from those that are sinful, and to lead you to those that are good and true. But the Lord guards even these guardian angels, and warms them with His love, and enlightens them with His wisdom.

To what do the angels lead them?

What is the effect of their being led and instructed by the angels?

What do the angels do for infants and children in this world?

How many guardian angels watch over each of us?

What do these angels endeavor to do?

What does the Lord do for the guardian angels?

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